

both the flight engineer and top turret gunner on a Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress. Sergeant Lawruk and his fellow crewmen were part of the 327th Bombardment Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group, known as Fame's Favored Few.

His squadron's mission on D-Day was to target and destroy the marshalling yards and industrial center at Thury-Harcourt in Normandy, France. As the dorsal turret gunner, Sergeant Lawruk manned twin 50-caliber machineguns located just above the cockpit of his bomber.

"I saw all the ships go across the channel," Stan said in a 2014 interview. "They were so thick, you could almost walk across the channel [on them]. And you could see the troops." Sergeant Stan Lawruk survived D-Day and the many follow-on missions of the Normandy campaign. After more than 20 combat flights, Lucky Lawruk had earned his nickname.

On his 26th mission, Stan Lawruk's luck ran out. On August 25, 1944, Stan's B-17 was on a bombing mission to destroy a V-2 rocket experimental station located along the coast of Peenemünde, Germany. There, his Flying Fortress fell victim to anti-aircraft batteries below.

"A direct hit blew off the propeller on our number four engine. That in turn tore a large hole in our right wing," Stan said in a 1945 newspaper interview. "Another hit put our number three engine on fire and set another windmilling. We lost altitude rapidly."

Stan and his fellow wingmen were instructed to bail out over Germany; however, they decided to stick with the plane if possible. "Over the Baltic we started to toss out everything we could move or pry loose," Stan said in 1945, stating that he even tried to drop the ball turret. "I didn't have a chance to finish the job before I jumped to my crash position. We came down in a slight crash near a fishing village. None of the crew was hurt."

A declassified document, Missing Air Crew Report 8275, recently found in the National Archives, verifies that all nine crew members survived the force of the crash landing near Sovde, Sweden. Weather conditions and visibility were described as "cloudy smooth." The bomber, numbered 43-37596, was last sighted at "1322 hours" that day.

Stan and his crew were rescued by Swedish troops and Red Cross workers; however, the American airmen would remain in neutral Sweden for 6 months. The bomber crew were considered prisoners of war until repatriated back to England. Stan, who originally enlisted in January 1943, remained in the U.S. Army Air Corps until he was honorably discharged at New Castle Army Airfield in October 1945.

After World War II, Stan did what many GIs did upon returning home. He picked up where he left off before the war. Stan went back to his grocery job at the American Store, now known as ACME, located at Chestnut and Franklin Streets in Wilmington.

Shortly thereafter, Stan Lawruk married Pearl DeLucia in November 1946. Together Stan and Pearl raised three children: Kathy, Stan, and Tim. Stan eventually landed a delivery job with the Tasty Baking Company, the maker of Tastykake treats. He worked there for 35 years until retirement. Topping that record was the nearly 69 years of marriage shared by Stan and Pearl Lawruk. His beloved wife passed away in 2015.

Stan, who just celebrated his 95th birthday, is still well known in our community and in our State. He recently moved to Wilmington VA Medical Center's Community Living Center, where he quickly became a favorite among the residents, staff, and veterans.

Stan still loves Tastykake treats and is widely known to be a bit of a card sharp who enjoys a game of Blackjack. Besides his interest in playing cards, he recently discovered his talent as an artist. In the last year alone, Stan has painted more than a dozen works of art. Folk who know Stan know him to be a loving, caring, social, and extremely positive person.

In summary, Stanley "Lucky" Lawruk is truly part of our Greatest Generation. I offer him my thanks for his sacrifices for family, for State, for country, and for humanity.

Stan, on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your dedicated service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GE BANGOR

• Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, in 1969, General Electric opened a factory in Bangor, ME. At that time, it was a small operation using old machinery to produce components for turbines that powered only 7,000 homes. Today, 50 years later, the skilled workers at GE Power manufacture equipment that powers more than 1 million homes. I am delighted to congratulate this outstanding company and its dedicated workforce on their golden anniversary.

GE Power is a center of excellence for steam turbine rotors and blading. It specializes in gas turbine component manufacturing, which is especially important as natural gas has become an essential contributor to America's growing energy independence and has helped reduce harmful emissions. As this facility has grown, so has its global reputation for innovation and problem solving.

That reputation is earned every day by the nearly 400 employees at GE Power. Their ingenuity and dedication have made their plant one of Bangor's most significant employers. They have embraced GE's companywide ethic of philanthropy and service to others, and they contribute to their community in countless ways.

The General Electric Company was founded in 1892 by Thomas Alva Edi-

son. The famed inventor and electricity pioneer could well have had Bangor in mind when he said, "The three great essentials to achieve anything are hard work, stick-to-itiveness, and common sense." The men and women of GE Power demonstrate those essentials every day, creating opportunity for themselves and our city, and I congratulate them on this landmark anniversary.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN FALLS AMERICAN LEGION POST 7

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, along with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I congratulate the American Legion Post 7 in Twin Falls, ID, on its 100th anniversary.

On March 15, 1919, the first American Legion caucus was held in Paris, France, in the wake of World War I. Just a few months later, in June of 1919, the American Legion Post 7 in Twin Falls, ID, was chartered. On September 16, 1919, Congress established the American Legion as a federally chartered corporation. As you can tell, those men in Twin Falls wasted no time answering the call in peacetime as they had in time of war, as veterans so often do. The low post number, post No. 7, shows the veterans of Twin Falls were one of the earliest to request and receive a charter in the Idaho Department.

The Twin Falls American Legion Post 7 has been around to help veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other U.S. engagements and activities. A remarkable record of accomplishment of service and support to our troops and veterans.

In addition, you will see post 7 members serving on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, veteran funerals, and many other community events as the color guard, providing 21-gun salutes, or playing taps on the bugle. They quietly provide support to grieving military families, injured veterans, and patriotic citizens.

Twin Falls American Legion Post 7 is part of the fabric and spirit of Twin Falls and the surrounding communities. They provide assistance and service to veterans by helping them to understand and apply for benefits, find jobs, and healthcare services. In addition, they are involved in many programs and community activities such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Oratorical Contests, and scholarship awards. Post 7 also has a women's auxiliary that sponsors the Girls State Program and serves in many capacities in the community.

The Preamble of the American Legion Constitution speaks volumes about the quality and patriotism of American Legion members. The first few lines of the preamble make evident these values: "For God and Country we Associate Ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United